

## Message Text

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73

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 CIEP-02

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FEA-02 FPC-01 H-03 INR-10

INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01 SAM-01

SCI-06 SPC-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 IO-14 PA-04

USIA-15 PRS-01 DRC-01 /183 W  
----- 098732

R 141925Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2463

INFO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMCONSUL BELIZE

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 1468

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, GT

SUBJECT: LAUGERUD VICTORY STATEMENT

1. ON EVENING OF MARCH 12, AFTER CONGRESS HAD ELECTED HIM PRESIDENT, GENERAL LAUGERUD MADE A SHORT TELEVISED VICTORY ADDRESS AND GAVE A PRESS CONFERENCE. IN TV SPEECH LAUGERUD ASKED ALL GUATEMALANS TO HEED HIS CALL FOR NATIONAL HARMONY AND AMITY. HE SAID THAT WITH THE CAMPAIGN ENDED HIS OPPONENTS, WHO ARE FRIENDS OF 30 YEARS IN THE ARMY, SHOULD WORK WITH HIM IN DEFENSE OF THE NATION'S BEST INTERESTS. HE DECLARED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WILL DEDICATE ITSELF TO ACHIEVING WELL-BEING FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT HAVE IT, WITHOUT TAKING  
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IT FROM THOSE WHO DO. HE MADE AN APPEAL TO THE PRESS,

AS A MOLDER OF PUBLIC OPINION, TO WORK WITH HIM TO  
LEAVE BEHIND POLITICAL ANIMOSITIES AND BRING NEW  
HARMONY TO THE GREAT GUATEMALAN FAMILY.

2. IN PRESS CONFERENCE LAUGERUD ANNOUNCED THAT HE  
HAD NOT YET DISCUSSED POSSIBLE CABINET APPOINTMENTS,  
BUT THAT THIS WOULD BE HIS FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS AS  
PRESIDENT-ELECT. REGARDING BELIZE, HE SAID THAT HIS  
POLICY WOULD BE ORDAINED BY THE CONSTITUTION, WHICH  
CLEARLY STATES THAT BELIZE IS GUATEMALAN TERRITORY AND  
OUGHT TO BE REINTEGRATED AS PART OF THE NATIONAL  
PATRIMONY. HE SAID HE WILL SEEK RESTRUCTURING OF THE  
CA COMMON MARKET, WILL DO WHATEVER POSSIBLE TO  
BRING PEACE BETWEEN EL SALVADOR AND HONDURAS, AND THAT  
HE REGARDED ALL CENTRAL AMERICA AS ONE POLITICAL UNIT.  
HE SAID HE WILL CONTINUE COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH  
COMMUNIST COUNTRIES. LAUGERUD ALSO DECLARED THAT  
GUATEMALA HAS PETROLEUM WHICH SHOULD BE EXPLOITED AND  
SAID HE WILL SEEK REFORM OF THE MINING AND HYDROCARBONS  
LAW TO FACILITATE EXPLORATION. HE FAVORED GUATEMALAN  
EXPLOITATION OF PETROLEUM BUT SAID HE WILL PERMIT  
FOREIGN CAPITAL TO PARTICIPATE IF GUATEMALAN RESOURCES  
ARE NOT SUFFICIENT. HE EMPHASIZED THAT FOREIGN CAPITAL  
MUST RESPECT GUATEMALAN LAWS. LAUGERUD CITED GUATEMALA'S  
"EXCELLENT" RELATIONS WITH MEXICO, WHICH HE HOPED, IF  
POSSIBLE, TO IMPROVE ON THE BASIS OF COMMERCIAL AND  
ECONOMIC RECIPROCITY. FINALLY, LAUGERUD DECLARED THAT  
GUATEMALAN POLICY TOWARD CUBA WILL NOT CHANGE AS LONG  
AS THAT COUNTRY DOES NOT ALLOW LIBERTY TO ITS CITIZENS,  
"ALTERNATION" OF THE PRESIDENCY, ELECTIONS, AND A FREE  
PRESS.

3. COMMENT: LAUGERUD'S TV REMARKS APEAR WELL DESIGNED  
TO CALM THE POLITICAL WATERS AFTER AN EXCEPTIONALLY  
CONTENTIOUS ELECTION BATTLE. HIS PRESS CONFERENCE  
REMARKS ALSO APEAR BY AND LARGE PRO FORMA EXCEPT FOR  
HIS REFERENCE TO BELIZE. THE STATUS OF BELIZE NEVER  
Arose AS A CAMPAIGN ISSUE, AND LAUGERUD'S IMMEDIATE  
ADOPTION OF THE GOG'S HARD-LINE PUBLIC POSITION DOES NOT  
BODE WELL FOR AN EARLY COMPROMISE SOLUTION OF THE BELIZE  
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ISSUE.  
MELOY

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESIDENT ELECT, SPEECHES, PRESS CONFERENCES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 14 MAR 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974GUATEM01468  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** GUATEMALA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740344/aaaabpfr.tel  
**Line Count:** 109  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 09 SEP 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** LAUGERUD VICTORY STATEMENT  
**TAGS:** PINT, PFOR, GT, (LAUGERUD, KJELL)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005